

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for operating a driver circuit, comprising:
operating the driver circuit at full power in a dynamic mode; and
operating the driver circuit at reduced power in a termination mode, wherein operating the driver circuit at reduced power comprises reducing a slew current for an output stage of the driver circuit, further comprising maintaining an idle current for the output stage at a constant level in the dynamic mode and in the termination mode, wherein reducing the slew current for the output stage includes switching a slew current source from a first slew current value to a second slew current value that is less than the first slew current value.
2. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein operating the driver circuit at reduced power comprises reducing or turning off at least one current in the driver circuit in the termination mode.
- 3.-5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein operating the driver circuit at reduced power further comprises reducing bias current to a reverse buffer of the driver circuit.
7. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein operating the driver circuit at reduced power further comprises reducing bias current to a digital input circuit of the driver circuit.
8. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein operating the driver circuit at reduced power further comprises reducing bias current to input buffers that supply programmable levels to an output stage of the driver circuit.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein operating the driver circuit at reduced power comprises reducing at least one bias current to the driver circuit using a current multiplier.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein operating the driver circuit at full power comprises selectably operating in a high state, a low state or an inhibit state in the dynamic mode.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein operating the driver circuit at reduced power comprises selectably operating in a high state, a low state or an inhibit state in the termination mode.

13.-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A driver circuit for use in automatic test equipment, comprising:
an output circuit operable in a dynamic mode and in a termination mode; and
a mode control circuit for supplying a first slew current to the output circuit in the dynamic mode and for supplying a second slew current to the output circuit in the termination mode in response to a mode select signal, wherein the mode control circuit is configured to reduce [[a]] the slew current for the output circuit in the termination mode and to maintain an idle current for the output circuit at a constant level in the dynamic mode and in the termination mode, wherein reducing the slew current for the output circuit includes switching a slew current source from the first slew current to the second slew current, which is less than the first slew current.

17. (Previously presented) The driver circuit as defined in claim 16, wherein the mode control circuit comprises a current multiplier and a switching circuit for switching a control current supplied to the current multiplier in response to the mode select signal.

18. (Currently amended) The driver circuit as defined in claim 17, wherein the first slew current includes a dynamic mode current plus a standby current and wherein the second slew current includes the standby current.

19. (Previously presented) The driver circuit as defined in claim 17, wherein an output current of the current multiplier is about 2 to 30 times the control current.

20. (Previously presented) The driver circuit as defined in claim 16, wherein the output circuit comprises a class AB output circuit.

21.-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The driver circuit as defined in claim 16, further comprising a reverse buffer coupled to the output circuit, wherein the mode control circuit is configured to control a bias current supplied to the reverse buffer in response to the mode select signal.

25. (Previously presented) The driver circuit as defined in claim 16, further comprising a digital input circuit coupled to the output circuit, wherein the mode control circuit is configured to control a bias current supplied to the digital input circuit in response to the mode select signal.

26. (Previously presented) The driver circuit as defined in claim 16, further comprising one or more input buffers coupled to the output circuit, wherein the mode control circuit is configured to control a bias current supplied to the one or more input buffers in response to the mode select signal.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A method for operating a driver circuit in automatic test equipment, comprising:

operating an output circuit of the driver circuit in a dynamic mode and in a termination mode in response to a mode select signal;

supplying a first slew current from a slew current source to the output circuit in the dynamic mode;

switching the slew current source from the first slew current to a second slew current and
supplying [[a]]the second slew current from the slew current source to the output circuit in the termination mode, wherein the first slew current is larger than the second slew current; and

maintaining an idle current for the output circuit at a constant level in the dynamic mode and in the termination mode.